

Public Law 100-584
100th Congress

An Act

Nov. 3, 1988
[H.R. 2472]

To provide authorization of appropriations for activities of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there are authorized to be appropriated for activities of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration \$14,718,000 for fiscal year 1988 and \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 1989, together with such sums as may be necessary for increases resulting from adjustments in salary, pay, retirement, other employee benefits required by law, and other nondiscretionary costs, for each of the fiscal years 1988 and 1989.

Minorities.
Women.

SEC. 2. (a) The Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (hereinafter referred to as the "Administrator") shall establish semiannual goals for recruiting and hiring minority members and women to the staff of the Administration. Such goals shall be published in the Federal Register not later than thirty days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Federal
Register,
publication.
Reports.

(b) The Administrator shall, not later than September 30, 1988, March 31, 1989, and September 30, 1989, submit a report on the success of the Administration in achieving the goals established under subsection (a) of this section to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

Grants.
47 USC 390 note.

SEC. 3. The Administrator shall enter into discussions with the Federal Communications Commission for the purposes of determining the feasibility of awarding public telecommunications facilities program grants for low-power television stations and television translator stations on a conditional basis pending the award by the Commission of licenses for such stations. The Administrator shall also work with the Commission to establish a schedule for the expedited and coordinated consideration, on a regular basis, of future grant requests and license applications for low-power television stations and television translator stations. The Administrator shall, within ninety days after the date of enactment of this Act, report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives on the progress made in carrying out the requirements of this section.

Reports.

SEC. 4. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) the Pacific Ocean region is of strategic importance to the United States, and other nations are seeking to establish their influence in this region;

(2) the Pacific Basin communities are important economically to the United States, and have sought a close relationship with the United States;

(3) because the Pacific Basin communities are geographically isolated and because many of such communities are relatively poor, they are in great need of quality, low cost communications services to maintain contact among themselves and with other countries; and

(4) since August 1985, the Pacific Basin communities have been without a vital communications service because the ATS-1 satellite of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration ceased operation.

(b) It is the purpose of this section to assist in the acquisition of satellite communications services until commercially viable alternatives are available and to provide initial funding in order that the Pan-Pacific Educational and Cultural Experiments by Satellite Program again serves the educational, medical, and cultural needs of the Pacific Basin communities.

Community
development.

(c)(1) The Secretary of Commerce shall expeditiously negotiate and acquire satellite space segment capacity for communications services for the Pacific Ocean region for former users of the ATS-1 satellite of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

(2)(A) Such satellite space segment capacity may, for a period of three years from the time it is acquired, operate in those portions of the UHF frequency band (225-400 Megahertz) assigned to the Department of the Navy, unless the President finds that the use of such spectrum solely by the Department of Defense is essential to the national security of the United States.

Defense and
national
security.

(B) The Secretary of the Navy shall join with the Secretary of Commerce in the negotiation and acquisition of satellite space segment capacity under this section in any case where the capacity to be used is the capacity specified in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.

(3)(A) The Secretary of Commerce shall provide to the managers of the Pan-Pacific Educational and Cultural Experiments by Satellite Program such funds as the Secretary of Commerce considers necessary to manage the operation of satellite communications services acquired under this subsection.

(B) The recipient of funds under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph shall keep such records as may reasonably be necessary to enable the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an effective audit of such funds.

Records.

(C) The Secretary of Commerce and the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access for the purpose of audit and examination to any books, documents, papers, and records of such recipient that are pertinent to the funds received under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.

(d) There are authorized to be appropriated \$1,700,000 for each of the fiscal years 1988 and 1989 for use by the Secretary of Commerce in the development, including the acquisition, of satellite communications services under subsection (c) of this section. Sums appropriated pursuant to this subsection may be used by the Secretary of Commerce to cover administrative costs associated with the provisions of this section.

(e) The Secretary of Commerce shall consult with appropriate departments and agencies of the Federal Government, representatives of the Pan-Pacific Educational and Cultural Experiments by Satellite Program, and other affected parties regarding the development of a long-term commercial solution to the communication

Reports.

needs of the Pacific Ocean region. Within one year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall report to the Congress regarding such consultation.

Approved November 3, 1988.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 2472 (S. 828):

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 100-362 (Comm. on Energy and Commerce).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 100-93 accompanying S. 828 (Comm. on Commerce, Science, and Transportation).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Vol. 133 (1987): Oct. 13, considered and passed House.

Vol. 134 (1988): Aug. 4, H.R. 2472 considered and passed Senate, amended, in lieu of S. 828.

Oct. 19, House concurred in Senate amendment.